

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A high pressure discharge lamp starter device comprises a starter circuit OC and control means CC. The starter circuit OC is capable of starting up an essentially mercury free high-pressure discharge lamp HPL containing a rare gas and a metal halide. The control means CC controls the starter circuit OC to start up the high pressure discharge lamp HPL, supply a lamp power larger than twice a rated lamp power, reduce lamp power such that light output is not significantly larger compared to that during a stable light emission time and the light output does not rapidly increase, when a metal halide charged in the high pressure discharge lamp HPL is abruptly vaporized, thereafter, gradually reduce the lamp power so as to settle the rated lamp power.